

# MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

April 23, 2009

A meeting of the EDC was held on Thursday, April 23, 2009.

The meeting began at 8:01 A.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Briggs, Mike Giannelli, Don Olson and Tom Herbstritt.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Nick Sisto, Perry DuBose and Joe Penar.

In Mr. Penar's absence, Mr. Olson chaired the meeting.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeff Eder- Community Development Director, Nicole Driskell- Community Development Administrator, Mark Lawton- Pioneer Press, and Mayor Pritchett (arrived upon adjournment).

**MOTION TO ACCEPT** minutes from last meeting held on Thursday, October 23, 2008 as presented by Nicole Driskell, was made by Mike Giannelli. Tom Herbstritt **SECONDED** the motion. **VOICE VOTE CARRIED.**

## **New Business:**

### *Possible Speakers for 2009 Business Appreciation Luncheon*

Discussion commenced possible speakers for the 2009 luncheon and if the luncheon will continue under the incoming administration.

## **Old Business:**

### *Business Retention Visits*

Retention visits were discussed as was the members' desire to visit some of the facilities that have received 6B tax incentives.

## **Project Updates:**

### *Project Updates*

Mr. Eder provided the members with updates on projects such as the Grand Avenue and Mannheim Road PUD, the Motorola building apartments/condos, Berry Tire, Seymour Avenue extension, in addition to others.

### *Market Updates*

There was discussion about the loss of business during this economy. Mr. Eder informed the members that Franklin Park has lost a few business: some to economic downturn, and some to the desire to relocate. To the best of Mr. Eder's knowledge, there are no local,

large companies that have fallen to this economy. Discussion commenced on vacant industrial space in Franklin Park.

### **Additional Discussion:**

Discussion commenced on the mayoral transition and the makeup and future/continuation of the EDC. Further topics included the call-in-vote capability with a quorum and the current lack of 6B activity. Also discussed was the incoming administration's approach to handling businesses, whether or not it will be a pro-business administration and the desire to have the EDC more involved in commercial issues.

Goals were mentioned, but not discussed at length in anticipation of the incoming administration wanting to have input on the future and direction of this board. In addition, desired topics for upcoming agendas were discussed.

Discussion commenced on the flooding meeting with Castle Metal, Precision Steel and MacLean Power and other companies in October/November 2008 as well as a possible new detention pond for that area and the means to make that possible. Further discussion included the increasing floodzone boundaries, FEMA, recent changes to floodzone boundaries, the possibility of incorrect base flood elevations, the remodeling of the area's watershed, flood insurance costs and charges for permits in floodzones, mortgages that have flood insurance requirements, and minimal elevation changes throughout Franklin Park.

The two remaining Elgin O'Hare Western Bypass options were discussed along with any new stormwater control efforts that may come with both options.

The FEMA flood area buyout program was discussed.

Activity and tenants of some formerly vacant buildings were discussed, as was the taxing differences between Cook County and DuPage County.

Mr. Eder informed the members that Grant Park Packaging is opening at 3434 Runge. Discussion commenced. The Dunkin Donuts plant on Franklin Avenue was also discussed. The Unilever building, the possibility of a 6B for any new tenant and Encore Foods' interest in the building were discussed. Fresh Express was discussed as was the relocation of Centrella Foods and any voiced interest in their buildings. Luxury Motors was discussed, as was the commercial units in The Crossings and incentives being offered to acquire tenants.

Discussion commenced on Mr. Eder's meeting with Dan Doherty of Prairie State Group.

Road conditions were discussed as was the redevelopment of the Mannheim Road bridge, and the reconstruction and widening of Franklin Avenue. Franklin Avenue was further discussed in relation to the Franklin Avenue rail bridge rehab, O'Hare expansion and the Elgin O'Hare Western Bypass project and how those projects will intersect.

Discussion commenced on Chicago Workforce Center for Manufacturing, their funding sources, what they do and companies in Franklin Park that have used their services.

The Leyden High School Work Keys program was discussed as was Triton's efforts to get involved in the communities they service by offering training classes, etc.

Being no further business before the Commission, Tom Herbstritt **MADE A MOTION** to adjourn. Mike Giannelli **SECONDED** the motion. **VOICE VOTE CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nicole Driskell